
ARENA REPORT

Volume 1, Number 23

13
SECOND ANNUAL UAWF CONVENTION
August 11-13, 1989
Chicago, IL

Welcome to the 2nd annual "Arena Report" convention issue. It's Tuesday afternoon as I type this so I can't tell you how the confab was since I haven't been there yet. I leave tomorrow night and I'll be hitting a Chisox game Thursday afternoon and a Cubs game at Wrigley Friday afternoon before the convention gets started. I'll be joined for those games by my roomie for the confab Scott Dickinson, Greg Scatton (one of the infamous Travis Brothers), Jaime Ward of Philly, the argueable John McAdam of New Hampshire, and our host for the pre convention bash, Steve Sims who will be putting us all up for two nights until the convention gets under way. (Bet you wish you hadn't offered buddy.) Included in this issue will be a detailed day by day account of the convention including a review of the AWA card we attend on the 12th. There is also a report in this ish of the 8/6 FCW card in Orlando which I attended with arena reporter (Glad S.B. is my friend or he'd nail me for some kind of copyright law.) Bruce Ginevan and his girlfriend Michelle who were on vacation from Maryland. Bruce's grades are included in the report. Ramblings, match reports, and letters round out the issue.

There is really nothing going on in the way of WWF or NWA shows in Florida in late August so I'll publish an issue on the FCW card 8/27. There is talk that the NWA is swinging through here again in September. I'm sorry. There is a Vince show in St. Petersburg on 8/26 but I can't justify driving an hour and 45 minutes for a Titan show. Do you disagree with me? I know you do Mr. Grummert.

"Arena Report" is published twice a month at the cost of 50¢ an issue until 9/1 when the price will increase to 75¢. And I will only accept orders for 50¢ until 9/1. A number appears on the top left corner of this page letting you know how many issues you have left on your subscription. All renewals, letters, match results, and other tidbits can be sent to Ron Lemieux, 370 Lake Tahoe Ct. #102, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Now let's jettison to the Windy City on United Airlines via the corn fields of Iowa.

Wednesday, August 9

I was picked up at the airport by Steve, Scott, Greg, and "Chokehold" editor Lance Levine. We went back to Steve's and watched some videos, the most notable being Tom Magee vs. Wajima in Japan. Funnier than Buddy Hackett. Especially when Magee gives Wajy a Kerry Von Erich like discus chop except in super slo mo. We then retired for the night. By the way, before we went to Steve's, we stopped at the hotel to see UAWF chairman Jon Gallagher where we were informed that the AWA had cancelled our show for Saturday night. So we planned to go to a Windy City show instead which was probably more fun than the AWA would have been.

Thursday, August 10

We picked up John McAdam & Jammie Ward at the airport and then shot over to Comiskey Park to see Oakland vs. White Sox in a pretty

boring affair. A's won 4-1. After the game, Lance, Scott, & myself spent three hours in Lance's car getting back to Steve's (with a venture in between looking for a certain apartment wrestling video, Mr. Lowe's to be exact.) which we finally did. We didn't do much this night except eat dinner and watch the tape from last year's convention. We received a phone call from "Pro Wrestling Torch" editor Wade Keller who was coming in on Friday. He had heard a rumor that the Ultimate Warrior had died. This rumor was rampant all weekend with all the wrestlers even asking about it. But Warrior worked Friday night in Portland, Oregon so we believe the rumor was squelched.

Friday, August 11

The convention was officially getting under way at 6:00 p.m. so our group was joined by John Hendrickson of Chicago and we were off to Wrigley Field. No dice. By the time we got there, all they had were SRO left so we blew it off. We got back to the hotel and the convention started as we had our membership meeting. Jon explained to everyone as best he possibly could what happened with the AWA. Seems the wrestlers didn't know they had a show until the prior weekend. The commission didn't know about it and the arena that was holding it had been selling tickets for it until a letter was sent telling them there was no show. We talked a little about next year and two spots were talked about. One was Atlanta (my personal choice) and Minneapolis which was mentioned by Wade Keller. Wade's idea sounds great as we would get lots of publicity and the open convention would probably be a success. But I think we would get lots more members to attend if we worked with the NWA and not the PWA and Calgary offices.

The trivia contest was next and there would be a new champion as last year's king, Randy Smith was a no show. Everyone participated in the first round. Nine people would advance to the semi's which would be held Sunday. I got blown away. Out of a possible 100 points, I got 10. (And I write a wrestling newsletter? I should be putting up the ring.)

We had our welcoming party at Joy C's which is a bar down the street from the hotel. This bar is frequented by the wrestlers when they are in town. The walls are covered with autographed photos of anyone imaginable. Most of us went upstairs after a while and ate. We had an interesting minor debate on accents between Wade and John McAdam. This Keller may only be nineteen years old but he's sharp as Bill Irwin's whip. He shouldn't be eating Chinese food though. It should be Big Mac's every day as he looks like Kendall Windham. (I'm having a party on you aren't I Wade?) About twenty of us went back to watch videos with the feature being "Alley Cats" starring Misty Blue, Kat Leroux, and Linda Dallas. Good movie but no plot. As a matter of fact the plot was so bad that Ron Dobratz walked out.

Saturday, August 12

The open convention started at 10:00 and we had more people than last year but nothing to write home about. This is one part of the confab that could be really great if given the right publicity. There was enough merchandise and the highlight was the appearance of "Freebird" Buddy Roberts who is starting his own group in Chicago. Buddy and his cohorts were selling Chicago Freebird T-shirts and talking with the fans.

The press conference started at 3:30 and the guests were Nick Bockwinkel (a true gentleman) Johnny Stewart from the AWA (a real _ _ _ hole) manager Tony Montana (Stewart's "friend") and two reps from Robert's new group. Bock was very interesting. But the conference got a little nasty when the WWF-NWA rivalry came up as Stewart was playing (he was actually very serious) heel and downgrading the NWA.

He was dealing with the wrong crowd. He claimed he'd never work in the NWA because Flair is intimidated by him. Yeah, okay. Get off whatever drugs your on pal. All sounds like sour grapes to me.

Before the press conference we shot some mock interviews and filmed a hot angle. This will be available to all of you as part of the underground UAWF tape. It will not be the official tape but one that promises to be a little different.

At night it was time for the card at DaVinci manor where you don't walk around alone. Nice area. Sam DiCero showed more class than I thought he had as he had a sign welcoming us in the window as well as fliers at our seats. Front row seats no less and in front of the ring barrier. Onto the results; 1) Frank "The Tank" Nelson and The Tyrant went to a double count out in 5:21. Nelson is the guy Abby destroyed a little over a year ago. I can't give this more than 100 negative stars. 2) Texas Hangmen beat Windy City DreaM Team as the DDT was the finisher. * $\frac{1}{2}$ 3) Captain Fantastic over Mr. Society Smith in 5:13. (Thought I was reading a comic book with these names.) 99 negative stars. 4) Awesome Ondi Austin retained her Windy City crown going to a double DQ with Debbie Coombs. Miss Cora got into it as well. The heat from us was fabulous as we were with the Coombs last year. Debbie pointed at Scott and yelled, "Hey, I know you. Sit down." She's a good heel. * 5) Gary Glitter beat Johnny Mercedes in 8:39. Mercedes is one or was one of the Tokyo Bullets. He was probably also drunk as he was drinking at the confab all day. Glitter was shining tonight. He does a gay act but he worked hard. * 6) Hurricar Smith beat Col. DeBeers via count out. This was supposed to be some Sheik wrestling but the good Col. wanted to replace him which the Sheik did. Awful bout. Dud 7) Twin Turbos beat Rockin Randy & Sonny Rogers. Highlight of this bout was a spot Randy did as the Turbos were outside in front of us and Randy went to the top rope. He did a dive on both of them and unfortunately they landed in our laps. (Me, Scott, Jammie, and Lance.) Jammie just so happened to have a beer at his mouth when this happened and needless to say we all wore it. ** 8) Stormy Appolo defeated The Gnat. This guy Appolo used to work as Stormy Granzig for ages. Good thing he changed his name because he still wrestles like a rookie. 50 negative stars. 9) Miss Kity beat Sexy Cindy. Cindy did a Muta flip in the corner with the elbow but it was poor. This girl is pretty hot, just ask Ken Patera. Dud 10) Golden Boys beat Gnat & Executioner with a rocket launcher. * $\frac{1}{2}$ 11) Ken Patera beat Steve Regal via DQ as Regal's manager the Snake interfered. Regal is this group's champ. All the green guys on this card and Patera looked worse than all of them. (Probably lose Wade Olson as a subscriber after that comment.) $\frac{1}{2}$ * 12) Buddy Rose & Doug Sommers downed The Terminators via DQ as the ref caught Wolf with a chain. Termies are tag champs and faces. Rose is almost up to where Adonis was. Actually heard he was bigger as Adrian has lost alot of weight. * $\frac{1}{2}$ They did the money gimmick after this bout and Mike Gunter offered his credit card. Rose said they only took cash. Hate that gimmick and it's the second time they've done that in this arena. Even though most of the bouts were bad, it was alot of fun as we gave the heels more heat than they would have had if we weren't there. You could say we had a crowd of Bruce Grummerts. After the show we went to an all night bar and all the boys showed up. Mike Gunter asked Rose for his dollar back. (He did give him one.) Buddy told him to get it from Sommers as he had all the money. Then Rose took a ketchup bottle and pointed it at Mike's face when he wasn't looking and said here's your dollar. He squirted the bottle but it was all air. Mike jumped a little bit. Funny guy that playboy. I asked Col. Debeers to sign an autograph for Dan Reilly's son Chris and he signed it, "Support apartheid in the north" Col. DeBeers. Talk about

taking your role seriously. The night ended in the wee hours of the morning for most.

Sunday, August 13

There was more open convention and then the semi-finals and finals of the trivia contest. The three contestants that made it to the finals were John McAdam of New Hampshire, Jammie Ward (Wad) of Penn., and Chris Zavissa of Michigan. McAdam ran away with it and his intensity was unreal. He kept telling people he had to win it for his ego. Has this guy watched Lex Luger too much or what? Congrats to Johnny Mac. Comment of the day goes to Lance Levine who saw Bockwinkle across the room and stated, "Nick looks good in those shorts." Has married life turned you 180 degrees my man.

It was now time for the banquet and the food was great. Much better than last year's. Than again we could have went to Burger King and had better food in Memphis. Here are the award winners and presenters:

-Correspondent of the Year Bruce Grummert (Presented by Ron Lemieux)

Bruce was unable to attend but all were in agreement that he took this walking away. I just wish Bruce had been there as I had some great lines for him. We tried to get Bulldog Bob Brown to give the award but no go.

UAWF Fan of the Year: Steve Sims (presented by Jon Gallagher)

Steve was one of the main contributors to this convention and was instrumental in getting the hotel booked when our first choice pulled out. Congrats to both Bruce and Steve.

Chairman's Award: Alan Eppenstein (Presented by Jon Gallagher)

This award is for outstanding service and Alan was instrumental in getting both Nick & Johnny Valiant to the weekend.

Inductees into the Ring of Immortals

-Announcer: Gordon Solie

-Promoter: Paul Boesch

-Tag Team: Bruiser & Crusher (Accepted by Chicago legend Johnny Case)

-Wrestlers: Buddy Rogers (Accepted by Johnny Valint who looked less than happy about being here. Seems he thought he was coming to a confab of "marks" Surprise!!!)

Nick Bockwinkel (Presented by Johnny Stewart, we had to listen to this guy again, and so soon after eating.)

After a few photos were taking Jammie got his video camera and we filmed interview, conducted by Wade Keller. We talked to all the members that were there. Some serious interviews and some not so serious. Included in this segment was a eulogy to Tom Robinson given by Harry White.

You see, Tom had to leave early Sunday morning due to medical reasons. To save Tom from embarrassment, I'll leave it at that. We then went to put on some more sensible clothing for what was to take place next.

Since we are all frustrated mat men at heart, we decided to tape a series of events leading up to the main bout. The participants included: Scott Dickinson as "Zeus", Ron Lemieux as "Big Ron Dudd" (his manager), Johnny Mac as the ultimate babyface and his partner "Lunch" Levine. (Played respectfully by John McAdam & Lance Levine) The different segments we shot were the angle where we put Johnny Mac out of commission, the contract signing, the announcement of special ref Silo Mike (played by Mike Gunter) and the match which evolved into a brawl in the bathroom. After which, Lance did a Dusty plumber segment. The whole thing is hilarious. We even had Jason Hervey (John Hendrickson) a doctor at ringside (Dr. Dragos, funny as hell.) and other officials. At one point we had two fans do a run in in the bout and were double clotheslined by Silo Mike. Yes, it was a shoot and Gunt layed into them but we missed it on camera. Tommy Edwards must have been directing. Harry White played the faces manager. We are marketing the tape through Jammie

Ward. It will include the mock interviews and angle shot Saturday, the interviews with all the members after the banquet, and the series of angles leading up to the match and including the bout. The price is \$10.00 if you supply the blank tape or \$15.00 if Jammie supplies it. Believe me, it's worth the money, especially if you know the players. Scott's portrayal of Zeus will have you rolling on the floor. And this guy is supposed to be an honorable referee. Looked like a total mark having a great time to me. Then again, we all were. Make plans to attend next year's convention. It promises to be more of the same.

In closing on this section, I'd like to thank Jon Gallagher again for a great time. Despite all the adversity Jon faced, I'm sure no one was disappointed. To you skeptics who thought this confab would bomb. You lost. Even ask the upper generation of fans like Ron Dobratz, Don Dawson, Andy Dragos (had to give you a jab Handy Andy) the list goes on and on. As long as there is a UAWF, there will be a fun convention I guarantee it! Guess I should give you the address for that tape. Jammie Ward, 2824 Quaint St. Secane, PA 19018.

Letters To The Editor

Bash Quotes

I just got back from the big Bash weekend in Philly & Baltimore with Evan Ginzburg & Dan Reilly and here are some legit quotes which may be of interest. Some conversations were overheard.

Jim Crockett (overheard in hotel): "Luger wanted to be champ. We told him Flair is the champ. We'll be hot in August and in trouble in Oct. Then we'll get Bill Watts."

Dan Reilly to Jim Cornette: "Hey Jim, you had a three star match today." Eddie Gilbert (laughing) to Cornette. "I only gave it two and a half."

Gary Fishman to Terry Funk: "You know Ric Flair's an egg sucking dog." Funk to Fishman (laughing) "You know, your right."

Eddie Gilbert, Missy Hyatt, and Cornette (driving by Teddy Long) "Peanuthead" Peanuthead" (all laughing)

Just for the record, most of the wrestlers were very responsive to the fans. Gary Hart was the only one who was nasty. Two great cards and alot of fun; a great weekend.

Gary Fishman
Flushing, Queens

Can't Find Power Hour

The NWA has recently introduced a show called the Wrestling Power Hour. As much as I enjoy watching the NWA, I'm having a hard time watching this show. The problem? It's on Friday night's right after the Braves' games. Now this may come as a big surprise to Ted Turner, but being from New Jersey, I'm not all that interested in watching the Atlanta Braves every Friday night. That, however, is the only way to tell when the Power Hour will go on the air. I can't set my VCR to tape it either because there is no way of knowing when the baseball game will end. Last time I gave up when the score was still tied in the 15th inning. I realize that this problem will go away in the fall, but by that time the show could be cancelled for poor ratings simply because we don't know when it's on. It seems to me that they could have found a better time slot if they really want people to watch.

Elyse Zois
Union, NJ

Worry Wart

As I've told you, I'm presently going through my first mid-life

Correspondent Reports

Warwick Musical Theatre

Warwick, RI

July 31, 1989

Correspondent: Louie Fortuna

1) Paul Roma beat Boris Zhukov with a powerslam in 15:09. 2) Lanny Poffo reversed a flying press from the top rope to beat Koko Ware at 14:09. 3) Rougeau Brothers defeated The Rockers in the best match of the night in 10:04. Shaun Michaels had Jacques rolled up for a pin but Ray came in and turned it around. 4) Rick Martel beat Tito Santana in their same match with a longer version as the time was 15:08. 5) Jim Neidhart beat Haku in 9:42 as the former king was DQ'd fro throwing the ref. Sounds like a new bar sport. 6) Jimmy Snuka used a diving headbutt off the top rope to beat the Honkeytonk Man in 10:38. Att: 2,000

Boutwell Auditorium

Birmingham, AL

August 4, 1989

Correspondent: Gina Holt

1) Danny Davis wrestled Mike Davis but no result as Gina was late for the show. 2) Todd Morton beat Stomper Don Harris with a rollup. B 3) Adrian Street beat Terrance Garvin when a woman ran in and interfered. Miss Linda got involved also. B+ 4) Dennis Condrey retained the Continental title beating Wendall Cooley via DQ as Wildcat knocked down the referee. B 5) Southern Boys retained the tag titles by beating Robert Fuller & Brian Lee. Lots of heat. B+ 6) Garvin, Lee, Davis, Pritchard, & The Stomper beat Southern Boys, Cooley, Davis, & Morton in a rage in a cage match. Downtown Bruno threw powder into Tracy Smothers face and the RPM rolled him up. Faces were handcuffed for five minutes while heels beat on them. B+ Att: 100

Kemper Arena

Kansas City, MO

August 4, 1989

Correspondent: Bruce Grummert

1) Flyin' Brian downed Bill Irwin in 7:00. 2) New Zealand Militia beat Ding Dongs when Morgan used the boomerang on Dong. (How did you know Bruce?) 3) Norman the Lunatic over Steve Casey. Fans here not into Norman gimmick. 4) Johnny Ace & Scott Steiner (sub for ill Shane Douglas) beat Al Greene & Ron Simmons in 24 seconds as Scott gives Al a belly-belly. 5) Tommy Rich (with help from Steiner) eliminated Norman to win the 2 ring battle royal. 6) Great Muta beat Eddie Gilbert in a dragon shei match via count out. Same bout as everywhere with a twist. Freebirds come out and annialate Cornette who was with Gilbert. 7) Freebirds retained the NWA Tag Title by beating the Midnite Express. Great brawl and security had to help Birds back to dressing room. 8) Road Warriors turned back the Samoan Swat Team. 9) Lex Luger retained the US Title beating Rick Steiner in 18 minutes using the ropes for leverage. 10) Sting & Steve William beat Terry Funk & Terry Gordy in a wild 15:00. Doc pinned Funk with a reverse cradle. Att: 2,160 Best action Bruce has seen all year

Montreal Forum

Montreal, Canada

August 4, 1989

Correspondent: Francois Lalonde

1) Tim Horner downed Richard Charland (sub for Valentine) ** 2) Dino Bravo beat Jim Neidhart in 12:04. -** 3) Bushwhackers won over Powers of Pain via count out in 13:10. *½ 4) Barry Windham beat Paul Roma in 11:16. **½ 5) Ultimate Warrior downed Andre the Giant in :48 with two clothesline Dud. 6) Dusty Rhodes beat the Big Boss Man via DQ when Slick interfered. in 6:03. * 7) Rockers beat Rougeaus in a marathon match that went o.t. Rockers won 3-2. -*** for first 40:00 and ***** for last 20:00 Att: 9,642

Salt Palace

Salt Lake City, Utah

August 5, 1989

Correspondent: Jack Thompson

1) Boris Zhukov beat Vincent Young with an elbow drop. C 2) Santana was jumped by Martel. Give it up already. 3) Lanny Poffo reversed a roll up to pin Koko Ware. C 4) Ted DiBiase pinned Hillbilly Jim as Virgil was distracting the hick and Ted came from behind with a knee. Ted is a saint. B- 5) Jimmy Snuka superfly splashed HTM (meow). A samoan charged the ring (maybe Sika?) but the cops took him away. B 6) Hack Duggan crowned Haku in an F bout. 7) Martel pinned Santana. A trip to Harlem for anyone guessing how. F- 8) Randy Savage beat Hulk Hogan via count out when Hulk went after Sherri & Zeus. B⁴ Att: 10,000

Hinkly Arena

Hinkly, MN

August 6, 1989

Correspondent: Wade Olson

1) Paul Diamond beat Terminator Riggs. 2) Baron Von Rashke downed Sheik Al Kaissie. 3) Destruction Crew beat Tommy Jammer & Derrick Dukes 4) Ken Patera beat Larry Zybysko via DQ.

(continued from page 5)

crisis and I've been contemplating a) man's mortality, b) the meaning of life, and c) the following three questions: 1) If Vince McMahon's such a genius, how come I don't go to his cards anymore? 2) Mike Tyson and Johnny Carson are the most beloved women beaters in history; why does everyone hate Randy Savage? 3) Where do wrestlers go when they are really hungry?

Ron, I know that you've done much soul searching too and I'm turning to you for these answers. Your spiritual guidance is surely needed now more than ever.

Your disciple, Evan Ginzburg
Bayside, NY

RL- If Evan doesn't stop worrying about petty things, he'll become "Arena Report"s version of Norman.

Ramblings

Talk is that Dan Spivey cancelled his Japan tour and may be headed to Titan soon... Paul E. Dangerously may be getting phased out as Afa or Sir Oliver Humperdink will be in to manage SST. Be a big mistake losing Paul E... Look for Eddie Gilbert to turn at the end of this month... I don't know about you, but I think that character Jamison on the "Bobby Heenan Show" could have been a cult hero... Stan Lane doesn't do anything for me anymore. The guy needs some rejuvenation.. The Ding Dongs wrestled in Pittsburgh 8/11 without their masks and went over as Greg Evans & Richard Sartain. Makes sense huh? Crowd was only 3,000 with a great Funk-Flair brawl on top. I'll have a full report next issue... Two hour TBS show this past weekend put me to sleep. The "Power Hour" was hot but by the time the 2 hour snoozer was over, I wasn't into it... A couple of plugs: Wade Keller puts out "Pro Wrestling Torch" at \$1.25 an issue. A great photo is included. Write Wade at P.O. Box 201844, Minneapolis, MN 55420... Lance Levine charges \$1.00 an issue to get alook in that insane mind of his. Lance's publication "Chokehold" comes out monthly. Write to him at 3113 South Parnell, Chicago, IL 60616... Sorry to cut this section short but I've crammed as much as I can into this issue. Have to start seriously considering going to 9 or 10 pages... I'll continue with the plugs next issue.

FLORIDA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

Sunday, August 6, 1989

Eddie Graham Sports Complex
Orlando, FL

Opening Match

Tim Parker beat Rock Hard Rick in 9:47 by reversing a flying cross body block. If you remember, last issue I mentioned someone doing a run in on Steve Keirn. Well, this Parker is the guy. Built decent but green. They almost killed each other at one point as Parker bent over for a backdrop but Rick bent over to go under a leapfrog. Crack went their heads. Lucky Rick's is rock hard. RL Dud BG- C

2nd Match

Mike Awesome downed Dennis Knight in 4:35 with a nice DDT. Glad they kept it short. RL 3/4 * BG-D †

Carribean Championship

Comrade Busich retained the title beating the Coconut Kid in 9:12 with a russian leg sweep. Busich beat Tyree Pride I believe on TV this past weekend for the title. I guess they can't afford a Caribbean belt as Comrade used the lightweight belt. RL -** BG-F

Florida Tag Team Championship

Brett Sawyer retained his and Jimmy Backlund's titles by beating Blade of the Star Riders in 14:10. That's right. A tag title defense with only 1 guy. I could have seen doing this if the belts had to change but this was another case of bad promoting. Sawyer was his usual boring self. "This is the FCW"... "We Stall". At least he dedicated a suplex to Michelle and Bruce kept his cool through it all. End saw Blade go for a monkey flip in the corner but Brett dropped him down and used the ropes for leverage. RL 1/2* BG-D

Main Event Tag Team Grudge Match

Kendall Windham & Ho Chi Wen defeated Steve Keirn & Al Perez in 22:51. I wish Perez had stayed in Texas for the weekend. He was in for only 4 minutes and all he did was joke around and laugh. I hate when guys do that. I don't care how many fans there are. You make all the fans really believe it's a work, which it is but you don't have to let everyone know it. Humperdink ko'd Perez with a loaded sock leading to the pin. RL * BG-D

Notes

Legendary Florida ref Bill Alphonso worked the bouts tonight as regular ref Mickey Jay was at the Jimmy Buffet concert. Heard that's where Backlund was too thus the no show. Maybe I should have went. Might have been more interesting than this even though I'm no Buffet fan unless it's the one you eat... Crowd was 108. Horrendous... As usual it's always fun to attend shows with other smart fans and it was enjoyable meeting Bruce and Michelle. They've announced a return date in November or December... This group will not appear 8/13 as they'll be touring the Carribean.

Final Word

Thanks to all who contributed. Sorry to the correspondents as I would have liked to go more in depth on their reports but space wouldn't allow it. Until 8/27. Enjoy "Summer Slam". See ya,

Ron